

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Review and reconsideration of the subject application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, applicant amends claim 1.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 USC 102(e) as being unpatentable over Fogle (US 6,944,956). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant submits that the Fogle reference does not disclose the device claimed in the present application. Firstly, Fogle discloses a main housing 12 which holds two sections of trimmer line 28, 29. The Office Action asserts that the interior area of the main housing 12 constitutes a bobbin because it is "the round area where the thread is stored." The Office Action indicates that this is the "area interior of 62," however, item 62 is a spring tab.

Words in a claim are generally given their ordinary and customary meaning. Vitronics Corp. v. Conceptronic, 90 F.3d 1576, 1582 (1996). The ordinary and customary meaning of bobbin is "a reel, cylinder, or spool upon which material is wound." This definition is underscored by the present application in paragraph 16: "...a cylindrical section 16 that the lines of cutting filament are winded on..." in addition to at least one other paragraph of the specification. Fogle does not disclose a bobbin on which trimmer line is wound; alternatively, it discloses two, shorter sections of trimmer line held in fixed locations.

Furthermore, Fogle discloses a device for a fixed-line trimmer head, as indicated by its title. Each section of trimmer line 28, 29 is fixed in place and is not periodically replaced by trimmer line fed from a bobbin storage location within the head.

Alternatively, the present application includes trimmer line storage that allows trimmer line to be fed into a cutting position. Because Fogle does not disclose either a bobbin structure or a device that is capable of feeding trimmer line subsequent to wear, it is improper to reject claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 USC 102(e).

In addition to the above arguments, Claim 1 has been amended to state, in pertinent part, "Trimmer head comprising at least two eyelets (17) and a bobbin (10) with at least two sections (11,12) for storing of one wound, feedable cutting filament (13,14) in each section," Fogle does not describe such structure.

The Office Action also rejects claims 1-6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugihara (US 5,522,141) in view of Peterson (US 2002/0026714) and Fogle (US 6,944,956). Applicant submits that Sugihara discloses a cord feed slot 10 with rectangular cross-section, as best seen in Fig. 7. Fogle discloses a hole or opening 42 that is also rectangular in shape, as best seen in Fig. 1. Peterson discloses an eyelet of circular cross-section (not numbered), best seen in Fig. 4. None of the references disclose an eyelet that has a particular shape to force the trimmer line into a particular portion of the eyelet when the head is rotating. Alternatively, the "vee" shape of the present application claims takes advantage of the forces generated by head rotation to force the trimmer line into a particular portion of the eyelet, regardless of the location of the trimmer line feed stock from sections 11, 12. None of the references, Sugihara, Peterson, or Fogle, either alone or in combination, describe such structure. Therefore, the combination of these references does not teach, suggest, or motivate the creation of such structure.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. ABE1-39642.

Respectfully submitted,

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